

Services for Young Children

Parents/ Carers Update – April 2023

Included this month: Help for Households, Sure Start Maternity Grant, Time for a new career?, Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Help for Households

Help for Households

The Government's *Help for Households* campaign gives clear information about the exceptional payments, energy support and existing support schemes available, so the public know what is available and where they can find help.

The [homepage](#) brings together over 40 support schemes that the public may be able to access depending on eligibility. Additionally, a range of online tools will help citizens quickly and efficiently check the support they might be eligible for and how to access it.

Sure Start Maternity Grant (SSMG)

You could get a one-off payment of £500 to help towards the costs of having a child. This is known as a Sure Start Maternity Grant.

You usually [qualify](#) for the grant if both of the following apply:

- you're expecting your first child, or you're expecting a multiple birth (such as twins) and have children already
- you or your partner already get certain [benefits](#)

You must claim the grant within 11 weeks of the baby's due date or within 6 months after the baby's birth.

You do not have to pay the grant back and it will not affect your other benefits or tax credits.



Time for a new career?

Do you enjoy spending time with children? Would you like to be self-employed and have a professional career?

In Hampshire we need Ofsted registered childminders to help support children's development and learning, as well as provide a nurturing environment for children and young people to thrive.

You will need many qualities: being in a jungle, surviving on a desert island or training to join an elite squad has no comparison!

Up for the challenge... want to [know](#) more, or email childcare@hants.gov.uk.

If you would like to attend a live 'Becoming a childminder in Hampshire' information session via MS Teams, please book here: [Sign up for 'Becoming a Registered Hampshire Childminder' information event Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Easter holiday schemes with free activities and meals for thousands of children from families on low incomes across Hampshire are being supported from the [Connect4communities](#) programme.

Parents and carers can find out what is on offer locally through the Family Information and Services Hub directory: [Holiday Activities and Food Programme | Family Information and Services Hub \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

